

## LA Personal Essay

“An act of kindness goes a long way.” It really does sound cliché, but to me, this phrase means a lot. I mean, this ‘kind act’ could just be anything! It could even just be a short phrase. However, this short phrase could be a life saver, a life buoy to help you stay afloat. Well, that drowning victim was me.

In Secondary 2, I had a best friend called Maggie. We shared the same interests and both played the violin! We hung out 24/7. We were inseparable.

Our class was tasked to spend a day in a local elderly home and we decided to perform on our instruments.

Suddenly, trouble began to brew.

You see, another class had held their CIP before us and they lamented that the elderly despised their performance, even asking them to stop playing! This was terrifying news.

Immediately, our class chickened out. In fact, Maggie was the first one to pull out! As the monitor, I reported this worrying situation to my form teacher, who then made it compulsory to perform!

This definitely did not ease the situation. Maggie knew that this was my doing and refused to speak to me. For the next two months that followed, she began to influence other classmates into hating me. I was confused, angry and lonely. It was the worst feeling in the World. I could use my fingers to count the number of classmates I could talk to! I hated being alone and yet, for a few months of recesses; I had to bear with it. I was at the lowest point in my life. Have you ever felt like you were left out of everything? It was not a least bit enjoyable.

One day, as I was about my usual routine, walking to the canteen alone, a group of classmates tapped me on the back and said “Hi, would you like to join us?” That’s all it took. All it took to make me the happiest girl in the Universe. I wanted to hug them there and then! It was the first time in a long while that I smiled.

Eventually, other classmates noticed my ‘transformation’. I began to exude confidence and my life took a turn for the better. I was full of smiles, regardless of what the others had to say of me. I felt great. This spurred me on.

Since then, I have vowed to extend random acts of kindness to others. At hindsight, all of this rooted from that little invitation! It is never a good feeling to be in that minority group to feel ostracized.

My goal is to spread acts of kindness and to befriend as many people as possible. I hope nobody feels left out and that everyone can be loved and accepted.

“You may say that I’m a dreamer, But I’m not the only one. I hope the someday you’ll join us, and the world will live as one.” – John Lennon